

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 H-02

PM-03 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

NEA/ARN - MR. KORN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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R 242202Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USCINCEUR VAIHAIGEN GERMANY

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JANUARY 24, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASSURE THE FOREIGN
RELATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE VERY NEXT STEP AFTER HIS TRIP
TO THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA
PEACE CONFERENCE. IN HIS SECRET OR PRIVATE OR NONPUBLIC
CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS DID HE GIVE THIS ASSURANCE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. IT WAS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Q. BOB, LAST NIGHT THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS
HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MAKING OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. CAN YOU TELL US IN WHAT WAY?

A. WELL, I DON'T THINK I WANT TO GO INTO ANY DETAILS IN
EXPANDING ON WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT

WE ARE IN REGULAR CONSULTATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON
THIS QUESTION AS WELL AS ON OTHER QUESTIONS.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS, BOB, ABOUT THE REPORT
THAT THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED LAST NIGHT OF AMERICAN
TROOPS TRAINING FOR USE IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND MIDDLE
EAST AREA?

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A. I UNDERSTAND IT WAS DONE AT THE WHITE HOUSE AS WELL AS
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT LAST NIGHT. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY
NO FOUNDATION TO THE SPECULATION THAT FOLLOWED FROM THE
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. END QUOTE. (FYI: ON THIS TOPIC
AT JANUARY 24 WHITE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING SPOKESMAN SAID:
"THERE'S NO SLIDING ABOUT ON THIS ONE. I WANT TO BE
FIRM ON THIS. THIS IS A CLEAR, HARD, FIRM ANSWER. THERE'S

NO TRUTH IN IT.

I TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
ABOUT THE REPORT THIS MORNING AND SCHLESINGER'S WORD
FOR THAT IS 'BUNKUM'.

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT CREATING ANY MIDDLE EAST EXPEDI-
TIONARY FORCE, IS NOT CREATING THREE DIVISIONS TO SEND
TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE UNITED STATES HAS NO PLANS
TO SEND ANY MILITARY DIVISIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST," THE
SPOKESMAN ADDED.) INGERSOLL

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